

1969

No. 199

6th Year

THE NAM PRESS

Information Weekly — E.O.: 46 Tran Hung Dao Street, Hanoi — Democratic Republic of Viet Nam

A vicious circle.

"De-Americanization" of the
War of Aggression Will Fare
No Better Than "American-
ization".

(Pages 4-5)

"THE U.S. representative to the Paris Conference has suggested six shapes of table for the Paris Conference. The tables are of different forms, but they all betray the U.S.-puppet aim: to give the meeting the implication of a 'two-sided' conference. The U.S. and the Saigon puppet administration keep refusing a quadripartite conference with four delegations, as rightly proposed by the DRVN, the NFL, and public opinion at large.

Everybody still remembers that in April, 1968, after U.S. President Johnson had decided the 'limited bombing' of North Viet Nam and declared his intention to proceed 'towards peace', the U.S. put forward nearly a score of sides, which were completely unacceptable, to try to delay the talks between

the DRVN and the U.S. Now, by proposing a set of differently shaped tables, including ones of incongruous forms, it only tries to deny the independent and equal status of the NFL delegation. By scheming talks on the South Viet Nam issue without giving full recognition to the NFL as the genuine representative, organizer and leader of the South Vietnamese people in their struggle against the aggressors and the traitors, it is actually holding up the conference and the peaceful settlement of the South Viet Nam conflict.

For all this, the U.S. government is shamelessly claiming that owing to its 'goodwill', the Paris talks have made 'progress'. On December 27, 1968, Mr. Johnson declared in Washington that there was every reason

U.S. MAINLY TO BLAME FOR CONFAB DEADLOCK

(A commentary by Nhan Dan on Jan. 5, 1969)

to believe that 'progress' could be made at an early date at the peace negotiations in Paris. Certain people in the U.S. ruling circles have even alleged that it is because of the attitude of the Saigon administration and of the DRVN that the Paris Conference cannot get under way. All this is sheer nonsense and slander. It must be made clear again that the main responsibility for the delay of the Paris conference rests with the U.S.

Indeed, as early as October 31, 1968, the outgoing U.S. President announced that the Paris Conference on Viet Nam would open on November 6, 1968 with the participation of the DRVN, the NFL, the U.S., and the Saigon puppet administration. Immediately after that, following the outbreak of the puppets in Saigon, the U.S. State Department on November 20 announced that the conference would comprise 'two sides' and intimated that the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique might play a leading role. Ever since, during the discussions of procedural matters, the American representative to the Paris Conference has always shown the U.S. intention to tune up the image of the puppets of the U.S. in Saigon, while trying, one way or another, to belittle the role of the NFL. VOA on December 30 last quoted Rostow as saying that the U.S. did not want the NFL to be on the same footing with the other delegations.

Had it not been for the backing of the U.S., the Saigon puppet administration would not have the cheek to behave so arrogantly. On his arrival in Paris, Nguyen Cao Ky the traitor clamoured

for the 'liberation' of Hanoi (!). And Nguyen Van Thieu the traitor parroted on New Year's Day the same abusive words taught him by his American bosses. The U.S. is trying to make it seem as if it was the Saigon administration alone that was opposing negotiations whereas the U.S. was willing, and as if it was because of the unwillingness of the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique that the Paris conference could not begin, despite U.S. pressure. This amounts to saying 'the tail was the dog', as certain Americans put it in reference to the relations between the U.S. and its puppets.

It is common knowledge that the Saigon puppet administration has been created, fostered, aided and abetted by the U.S., whereas it is hated and spurned by the South Vietnamese people. Without U.S. troops and weapons, this administration cannot survive even for a single day. Now, the loss of the initiative, stultimate and setbacks of the U.S. and its puppets naturally give rise to divergences, sometimes very sharp, among them: nevertheless the U.S. still

(Continued page 2)

1968, A YEAR OF VIET NAM PEOPLE'S PERSEVERING STRUGGLES ON DIPLOMATIC FRONT

THE year 1968 opened with the resounding echoes raised throughout the world by the Dec. 29, 1967 important statements of DRVN Foreign Minister Nguyen Dai Trinh:

"The position of the Vietnamese people is quite clear", he said, "That is the four points of the DRVN Government and the Political Programme of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation. That is the basis for the settlement of the settlement of the Viet Nam question."

"The U.S. Government has been unceasingly claiming that it wants to talk with Hanoi but has received no response. If the U.S. Government truly wants to talk, it must, as has been made clear in our Jan. 28, 1967 statement, first of all stop unconditionally the bombing and all other acts of war against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. After such an unconditional halt, the DRVN will enter into talks with the U.S. on relevant questions..."

WASHINGTON DRIVEN INTO A CORNER

SINCE early 1965, as the air war of destruction against North Viet Nam was started and American troops were sent en masse to South Viet Nam, the U.S. psywar machine was put in action to proclaim from the loudspeakers that the American rulers were deeply attached to peace. If their propaganda was to be believed, they seemed to be particularly interested in having talks with the DRVN. "Discussions without conditions, negotiations without condi-

tions," so ran their formula.

The language was crafty indeed, but it could not conceal some tricks used by Messrs. Johnson, Rusk and Co: What do the "discussions or negotiations without conditions" mean if they are to talk with an interlocutor at whom a gun was pointed? To negotiate with Hanoi while bombs were raining on the DRVN, wasn't that a rather simple way for Washington to secure a position of strength right from the start?

On Jan. 28, 1967, Mr. Nguyen Dai Trinh made it clear for the U.S. rulers to understand what could help the talks between the DRVN and the U.S. begin if the U.S. really wanted such talks. The American ruling circles were truly at a loss as a result of this statement. While continuing their war escalation in the North as well as in the South, they had nevertheless to say something to soothe public opinion. First, in announcing their famous "San Antonio formula" (of Sep. 29, 1967). This formula, purportedly vague, said that the U.S. would end the bombing of North Viet Nam, if that was rapidly conducive to productive discussions, and "we would assume that while discussions proceed, North Viet Nam would not take advantage of the bombing cessation or limitation." It would not be difficult for a shrewd observer to find that that subtle formula implied however the condition of 'reciprocity' already sternly condemned by everybody.

Another means used by Washington to distract the world's attention from Mr. Nguyen Dai Trinh's Jan. 28,

1967 statement was the raising of doubts for instance, on its value as a bargaining chip, or even to the bombing get the talks going? or on its earnestness (what should be the subjects of eventual talks?). The DRVN Foreign Minister's words on Dec. 29, 1967 were intended to

(Continued page 2)



No enemy stronghold is immune from PLAF attacks

5 ENEMY COMPANIES WIPED OUT OR DECIMATED On the Saigon and Da Nang Fronts

- More than 200 South Korean casualties in a forlorn in Binh Dinh province.
- 30 vessels and cargoes sunk or burnt by the patriots between Dec. 8 and Jan. 5.
- 220 planes and helicopters shot down or damaged in 2 months on the Saigon front.

U.S. MAINLY TO BLAME FOR CONFAB DEADLOCK

(Continued from page 1)

has the lost word in all matters concerning it and its puppets. Senators McGovern and Young, rightly termed as "mini" and "tinhorn" dictators the ring-leaders of the Saigon puppet administration, thus putting them in their proper place as lackeys of the U.S., and showing the U.S. officials that it should do it really wants to take part in the Paris Conference and settle peacefully the question of Viet Nam.

It is U.S. unwillingness to give up its dark design to annex South Viet Nam and turn it into a U.S. type colony, and its consequent intention to cling to the Saigon administration as an

instrument to this effect, that lies at the bottom of the attempt to clamorize the Saigon quelling regime. Reports from Washington, December 30 last revealed that the U.S. government would spend an additional 3.8 billion dollars for the Viet Nam war this year, and showing the U.S. officials in Saigon were speculating about a long-term involvement of the U.S. in Viet Nam. According to the U.S. News and World Report on December 2, 1968, 75 American officers and civilians were being trained for the peaceful settlement of the Viet Nam issue on the basis of the respect for the Vietnamese people's basic national rights. (Continued)

But, U.S. stubbornness will only invite on it still heavier setbacks. There can be only one path for the U.S. to an "honorable" peace: the U.S. aggressive war in South Viet Nam, take all the U.S. troops home, and let the South Vietnamese people settle their own affairs in line with the Political Programme of the NLF. Most immediately, the U.S. must stop its dilatory moves, so that the quadripartite conference in Paris can begin soon, and conditions can thus be created for the peaceful settlement of the Viet Nam issue on the basis of the respect for the Vietnamese people's basic national rights. (Continued)

REASONABLE PROPOSALS SYSTEMATICALLY TURNED DOWN BY USA

IN the course of a meeting with Ambassador Cyrus Vance on the afternoon of January 3, 1969 to continue the discussions on procedural arrangements for the quadripartite conference, Ambassador Ha Van Lau, with the consent of the delegation of the South Viet Nam NLF, proposed the following:

1- If the U.S. accepts an unsplit round table at which each delegation may take a seat of its choice, which shape will be free from the implication of either a two-sided or a four-party concept.

a) The DRVN and the NLF will agree to the dispensing with the flag and name plate of each delegation at the table.

b) Concerning the speaking order at the first session, it is the DRVN delegation's view that all the four delegations should draw lots

as already proposed by the DRVN. However, in view of the refusal by the U.S. and the DRVN to accept the DRVN suggested that its delegation and the U.S. delegation speak next and let either of the other two delegations meet on January 6, 1969, to consider and discuss the procedural arrangements.

All these reasonable proposals were turned down by the U.S. government, which is a socialist one, has made important progress.

In the conditions of war, socialist industrialization has been continuing. Along with maintaining and promoting the key branches of the centrally-run industry, regional industry has made big strides forward, and this has made it possible for regional economy to take shape and

bring into full play its role. The productive capability of the various regions has visibly raised. In many delta provinces like Nam Ha and Thai Binh and mountain provinces like Lai Chau and Lai Chao, regional economy has been gradually becoming self-sufficient in terms of food, clothing and other necessities. Traditional or improved farm tools, small machines for agriculture, tools for handicrafts and have been able to manufacture some necessities of life, thus strengthening the ties between agriculture and industry and making better use of latent local potentials.

added two more: the place should be accessible to news coverage and one here, the other there, and other satellites of the U.S. have their representatives. Parallel to this, Mr. Rusk undertook an escalation in the offer of places for contact: he proposed five places, then a few days later ten others. Some of those places did not even meet the conditions raised by the U.S. government, for instance Kuala Lumpur or Vientiane.

One may easily understand the unanimous condemnation that befell the men in Washington.

Once again it fell to the DRVN Government to give a positive proof of its goodwill. The DRVN Government, which was never lacking, On May 3, the DRVN Foreign Ministry made public a statement, the main part of which follows:

"In face of such a situation (in which the U.S. Government was using dilatory measures) the Government of the DRVN is of the view that formal talks between Hanoi and Washington should be held without delay. The DRVN has decided to appoint Minister Xuan Thuy as its representative to enter into formal talks with the U.S. Government's representative with a view to ascertaining with the U.S. side the unconditional cessation of the U.S. bombing raids and all other acts of war against the DRVN, and then discussing other problems of interest to both sides."

The Government of the DRVN welcomes the French Government's willingness to enter into formal talks between the DRVN and the U.S., as stated by the French Foreign Minister, Mr. Couve de Murville on April 18, 1968. The Government of the DRVN considers that Paris, like Phnom Penh or Warsaw, is a suitable place for such talks. The two-sided talks will begin on May 10, 1968 or a few days thereafter."

(to be continued)

THE NORTH GREAT REAR BASE OF THE SOUTH

SUCCESSFUL ECONOMIC CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT IN FOUR YEARS OF ANTI-U.S. STRUGGLE

NGUYEN VAN DAO,
Vice-Chairman of the State Planning Commission

ten million metres of textile as gifts to be presented to the South Vietnamese people.

Regional industry has been growing at a quick pace. Many branches have even surpassed the rate of development in peace time.

In the four years from 1965 to 1968, investments in regional industry development increased fourfold compared with the period 1961-1964; more than 2,000 state-run local industry establishments and 2,600 handicraft co-operatives have been founded and put into operation. Reality has shown that it is fully possible to develop regional industry in a short time.

In the four years from 1965 to 1968, investments in regional industry development increased fourfold compared with the period 1961-1964; more than 2,000 state-run local industry establishments and 2,600 handicraft co-operatives have been founded and put into operation. Reality has shown that it is fully possible to develop regional industry in a short time.

The fledgling industry of North Viet Nam has by no means spared by American aircraft. Nevertheless, over the past several years, the key branches of the centrally-run industry (electricity engineering, coal, oil, etc.) have been developing or maintaining their production at a satisfactory level. In the years 1964-1967, gross value of the engineering industry grew at an annual rate of 8% and the mining and chemical industry, 6.8%. The coal mines in Quang Ninh fulfilled their production plan 30 days ahead of schedule. Light industry branches have also made headway. In 1968 gross output value of light industry topped the plan by 10%. In particular, textile industry produced an extra

Viet Nam to advance vigorously and realize semi-mechanisation and mechanisation and rice output rose 18% over the same crop in 1967. In 1968, pig livestock went up 3-4% compared with 1967. Enjoying an ever greater assistance from industry, agriculture is accumulating more experience to prepare for still more vigorous steps of development.

Agricultural production holds an important role in the national economy of North Viet Nam. In the past few years, surmounting multiple difficulties caused by war and an unfavourable weather, agriculture in North Viet Nam has never stopped its steady march forward. New socialist production relations have become more and more consolidated. The material and technical bases have been continually reinforced. Agricultural production is vigorously forging ahead in the direction of intensive cultivation and all-round development and has obtained encouraging results in food and foodstuffs production. For the first time, the country has been able to produce crops that have reached in two crops five tons or more of paddy per hectare in the coastal zone and in the mountainous areas.

Against the background of the colonial and feudal regime have been the U.S. aggression, the war of destruction, only two districts and a few hundred co-ops reached that mark. In 1967 the number of co-ops rose to 200 and in 1968, 300 co-ops. In particular, two province-level units, namely Thai Binh and the outlying area of Ha Tinh, have brought in five tons of paddy per hectare a year. In 1968 although heavy storms and water logging hit many areas in North Viet Nam, many localities reached this target. In the winter crop of 1968, in spite of concentrated enemy attacks on the "panhandle" of North Viet Nam (so named because it is hemmed in between the Long Range and

Engineering industry, in particular, has increased manyfold. A network of engineering factories and shops has been established from the provincial and district levels down to the agricultural co-ops. The rapid growth of the engineering industry in war time is a very important factor making it possible for North

the sea) the people there put under crop a larger acreage than the previous year and rice output rose 18% over the same crop in 1967. In 1968, pig livestock went up 3-4% compared with 1967. Enjoying an ever greater assistance from industry, agriculture is accumulating more experience to prepare for still more vigorous steps of development.

Finance and trade activities have also recorded many achievements in the past few years. Owing to the development of regional economy, the income of all the localities has been on the upgrade. The state budget has given priority to investments in the most important branches, especially to the expansion of regional economy. The network of state trade has been broadening, 90% of the villages have had their own supply and marketing co-ops. Thanks to the improvement of the distribution system, an adequate supply of goods has been ensured. The income of the farmers at the basic level. The total turnover of retail trade in the socialist sector during the 1964-1967 period. Right in the conditions of an aggressive war, the supply of first necessities of the people in food, clothing, education and health care at stabilized prices. In foreign trade, in spite of difficulties in transport, there has been a continual broadening of the sources of export lines and improvement of the reception and distribution of imported goods. The people's life,

even in the areas most intensively raided by the enemy, remains stable, and in some areas, has even improved.

Communications and transport have been a battle front where confrontation with the enemy was the fiercest. In 1967 the U.S. escalated its attacks on roads, communication lines in North Viet Nam compared with 1965. However, thanks to the active participation of the entire people in the maintenance of communications and transport, there has been a marked growth in the means of transport, simple and mechanized, and therefore, traffic has in the whole country kept open throughout the past four years. Some communication and transport branches have proved themselves serving the fighting, production and the people's life.

THE big and all-round successes in economic building and development in the past four years have largely contributed to the victories of historic significance of the Vietnamese people in both the South and the North. These successes have helped strengthen the economic and defence potentials and raised the morale of the people to the fullest extent possible the requirements of the front. They have also created extremely favourable conditions for North Viet Nam to fulfill its economic tasks in the coming period so as to march forward together with the South Vietnamese people and defeat the U.S. aggressors. Reality has created the soundness of our Party and State's policy of economic reorientation in war time to ensure the reorientation in the best manner of the Vietnamese people's strategic determination which is to defeat the U.S. aggression and at the same time build socialism.

Teachers and villagers encouraged them to tie over their difficulties and keep him at school. Then, when the school and the whole co-op united efforts to rebuild the house. They also gave financial help. They also sent to help Quang's family back to their feet as before the bombing raid. Quang was thus able to continue his education and, at the end of term, he was among the first students to be promoted to the district selected to the provincial team of primary pupils to sit in all the schools in the North Viet Nam.

These words sound like a line of verse and has a ring of truth.

These educational achievements justify the erection of a victory monument to the village entrance. A teacher shook it to me and said, "Each enemy attack gives me a new lesson."

These words sound like a line of verse and has a ring of truth.

These educational achievements justify the erection of a victory monument to the village entrance. A teacher shook it to me and said, "Each enemy attack gives me a new lesson."

even in the areas most intensively raided by the enemy, remains stable, and in some areas, has even improved.

Communications and transport have been a battle front where confrontation with the enemy was the fiercest. In 1967 the U.S. escalated its attacks on roads, communication lines in North Viet Nam compared with 1965. However, thanks to the active participation of the entire people in the maintenance of communications and transport, there has been a marked growth in the means of transport, simple and mechanized, and therefore, traffic has in the whole country kept open throughout the past four years. Some communication and transport branches have proved themselves serving the fighting, production and the people's life.

THE big and all-round successes in economic building and development in the past four years have largely contributed to the victories of historic significance of the Vietnamese people in both the South and the North. These successes have helped strengthen the economic and defence potentials and raised the morale of the people to the fullest extent possible the requirements of the front. They have also created extremely favourable conditions for North Viet Nam to fulfill its economic tasks in the coming period so as to march forward together with the South Vietnamese people and defeat the U.S. aggressors. Reality has created the soundness of our Party and State's policy of economic reorientation in war time to ensure the reorientation in the best manner of the Vietnamese people's strategic determination which is to defeat the U.S. aggression and at the same time build socialism.

Teachers and villagers encouraged them to tie over their difficulties and keep him at school. Then, when the school and the whole co-op united efforts to rebuild the house. They also gave financial help. They also sent to help Quang's family back to their feet as before the bombing raid. Quang was thus able to continue his education and, at the end of term, he was among the first students to be promoted to the district selected to the provincial team of primary pupils to sit in all the schools in the North Viet Nam.

These words sound like a line of verse and has a ring of truth.

These educational achievements justify the erection of a victory monument to the village entrance. A teacher shook it to me and said, "Each enemy attack gives me a new lesson."

These words sound like a line of verse and has a ring of truth.

(Continued from page 1)

dispose of all such artificial quibbles. The talks that were to start after the unconditional cessation of the bombing and all other acts of war against the DRVN. The answers given by the Foreign Minister to an AFP correspondent on Feb. 8, 1968 provided further clarification on the subjects of eventual talks: "The relevant questions are questions related to a settlement of the Vietnam problem on the basis of the 1954 Geneva Agreements, they are also the relevant questions which could be raised by either side."

So Washington was driven into a corner. The position of the DRVN elicited a unanimous welcome. "Never had the North Vietnamese Government publicly held out such a prospect to these eventual talks and so clearly given to understand that it subscribed to the desire that the talks be really productive," commented AFP on Feb. 9, 1968. "A Vietnam's Foreign Minister has now cleared away some of the remaining obstacles to peace talks with the U.S.," said the New York Times on Feb. 11, 1968. From various political horizons, among others U Thant, the Governments of France, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland, all stressed the necessity for the U.S. to unconditionally cease the bombing as a first step without which nothing could be started. And a large number of American personalities were of the same opinion.

ESCALATION IN SUGGESTIONS OF A PLACE FOR CONTACT

WASHINGTON had everything to do to do the blow. Mr. Johnson publicly demanded that "new signs" be given by Hanoi before ending the bombing. Mr. Rusk, in his usual off-hand manner, term-

1968, A Year of Viet Nam People's Persevering Struggles on Diplomatic Front

ed Mr. Nguyen Dai Trinh's words "propaganda gestures". Mr. Clifford re-treated the U.S. position, and announced a somewhat modified form and let it be understood that in case of talks, the U.S. would not go above the normal level would be "acceptable".

Meanwhile the escalation went on in North Viet Nam and the DRVN. On March 1, 1968, the first F-111A ultra-modern fighter-bomber was bagged on March 28. Above all, the generalized offensives and widespread uprisings of the South Vietnamese people and armed forces in the days following TET — events which U.S. propaganda tried their best to describe as unimportant — had their impact in depth, penetrating and brushing for the U.S. aggressors. On March 22, 1968, Westmoreland was sacked from his post as commander of U.S. forces in South Vietnam.

March 31, 1968 saw the first U.S. drawback of far-reaching effect: Johnson went to the television and dramatically declared that from now on the U.S. confined itself to a "limited bombing" of North Viet Nam. He added that this limited bombing would end only "if our restraint is matched by restraint in Hanoi". And in the favour of such a bombing limitation, Johnson declared, "the U.S. is ready to send its representatives to any forum, at any time to discuss the means of bringing this war to an end". In the same March 31, 1968 speech, Johnson who had dismissed Westmoreland only a few days back, dismissed himself in announce-

cing his withdrawal from the presidential race.

By declaring the "bombing limitation" and by renewing their offer for talks, the American rulers thought they could bring the ball to Hanoi. Great was their surprise when three days later, on April 3, 1968, they received the text of a major statement of the DRVN Government. This statement first gave an analysis of the double standard of the U.S. decision to "limit the bombing".

"This was an admission of failure but at the same time, a crafty trick of the U.S. Government to placate public opinion. In fact, the U.S. Government keeps sending more U.S. troops to South Viet Nam, makes every effort to strengthen the puppet army, and asks for additional appropriation to pursue its aggressive war in Viet Nam. In fact, the United States continues to bomb an important part of the territory of North Viet Nam, from the 17th to the 20th parallel and refuses to stop unconditionally the bombing raids on North Viet Nam, the whole territory of the DRVN."

The statement went on to say:

"However, for its part, the Government of the DRVN declares its readiness to appoint a representative to contact a U.S. representative with a view to ascertaining the U.S. position on the unconditional cessation of the U.S. bombing raids and all other acts of war against the DRVN. But such talks may be started going."

The April 3, 1968 statement was closely followed on April 8, by another statement by Mr. Nguyen Dai Trinh, in an interview granted to a CBS

correspondent. Mr. Trinh said that preliminary contacts between the DRVN and the U.S. might take place in Phnom Penh, at ambassadorial level.

As American commentators Rowland Evans and Robert Novak (USIS, April 4, 1968) remarked, not a single American diplomat, not a single DRVN Government spokesperson so quickly and so positively to Mr. Johnson's March 31, 1968 statement. The American rulers — to say the truth — never wanted any serious talks. They nevertheless insisted on "serious talks" believing that the Vietnamese side would find them unacceptable. But the challenge was met: official talks would take place after the complete, unconditional cessation of the bombing, but right now Hanoi was for preliminary contacts.

The ground was cut under Washington's rulers' feet. What was left to them was to exert their talent in dilatory manoeuvres. At first, they turned to Phnom Penh because of "technical problems arising from the absence of a U.S. mission". After the Vietnamese side proposed Warsaw as an additional place, they put forth two "minimum standards": i.e. the contacts should take place in a neutral country where both sides maintain a mission and have adequate communications. It should however be recalled that Messrs. Johnson, Rusk and Co had who know for how many times — and even shed the presidential statement of March 31, 1968 — declared that they would be ready to go anywhere at any moment, "a room and a table" for the DRVN to send there his closest and most trusted associates. But now it was an escalation in Washington's terms. To the two above-cited conditions, Mr. Johnson soon

added two more: the place should be accessible to news coverage and one here, the other there, and other satellites of the U.S. have their representatives. Parallel to this, Mr. Rusk undertook an escalation in the offer of places for contact: he proposed five places, then a few days later ten others. Some of those places did not even meet the conditions raised by the U.S. government, for instance Kuala Lumpur or Vientiane.

One may easily understand the unanimous condemnation that befell the men in Washington.

Once again it fell to the DRVN Government to give a positive proof of its goodwill. The DRVN Government, which was never lacking, On May 3, the DRVN Foreign Ministry made public a statement, the main part of which follows:

"In face of such a situation (in which the U.S. Government was using dilatory measures) the Government of the DRVN is of the view that formal talks between Hanoi and Washington should be held without delay. The DRVN has decided to appoint Minister Xuan Thuy as its representative to enter into formal talks with the U.S. Government's representative with a view to ascertaining with the U.S. side the unconditional cessation of the U.S. bombing raids and all other acts of war against the DRVN, and then discussing other problems of interest to both sides."

(to be continued)

Education in the Anti-U.S. Fight

U.S. Attacks Only Bring the People Closer Together

THE first U.S. rocket fired on village Q (Thanh Hoa) killed 3 members of the family of Le Thanh, a 7th form pupil, and Le Dang Su, a 9th form school boy. That day, both were at school when the bomb explosion was heard. They ran home only to see a deep crater at the site of their house. Their mother and their two younger brothers used to live there.

In a vindictive spirit all schools in village Q simultaneously launched a campaign called "Helping friends avoid the example of Nguyen Ha Ngoc (1)". A collection of books and clothes was launched

among village pupils. A few days later, Xu and Su, wearing mourning bands, returned to their classes. Later on, U.S. aircraft struck at village Q again. This time a friend of the family, who had not heard yet, Nhung asked to rejoin his class. In the first days, at the beginning of the year, he could not be removed yet, his friends, again took turn in carrying him to school pick-a-back.

In the third U.S. raid, Nhung, an 11-year old primary pupil, was wounded. His class-mate, flew to his rescue. Seeing that his friend's leg was bleeding, Mai immediately took off his shirt, tore it

into strips to dress the wound. Nhung was sent to hospital. Friends in his study group took turns in visiting him daily, bringing him gifts and attending to his wound. Nhung did not hated yet, Nhung asked to rejoin his class. In the first days, at the beginning of the year, he could not be removed yet, his friends, again took turn in carrying him to school pick-a-back.

In another attack, a U.S. bomb completely wrecked the house of Quang, a 4th form pupil, and at literature. Their house destroyed and their property completely lost, his parents, unable to support a large family by themselves, wanted him to drop out.

Teachers and villagers encouraged them to tie over their difficulties and keep him at school. Then, when the school and the whole co-op united efforts to rebuild the house. They also gave financial help. They also sent to help Quang's family back to their feet as before the bombing raid. Quang was thus able to continue his education and, at the end of term, he was among the first students to be promoted to the district selected to the provincial team of primary pupils to sit in all the schools in the North Viet Nam.

These words sound like a line of verse and has a ring of truth.

These educational achievements justify the erection of a victory monument to the village entrance. A teacher shook it to me and said, "Each enemy attack gives me a new lesson."

many pupils of general education schools have passed examinations with excellent marks. The inland education service has won a prize from the province.

These U.S. aggressors have killed 12 times and have left there the carcass of the 1200th platoon downed over North Viet Nam.

These words sound like a line of verse and has a ring of truth.

So Lyndon B. Johnson will soon step out of the White House, and hand down to his successor a sad heritage the gloomiest part of which is incontestably the war of aggression in Viet Nam. Not long ago, in 1964-1965, LBJ Johnson naively thought that a little demonstration of American military power was enough to bring to their senses the barefooted Vietnamese who dared successfully thwart all the plans elaborated by Washington's most sophisticated computers. And, as everybody knows, Mr. Johnson succeeded in running through Congress the "Tonkin Gulf incident" force and winning a vote which gave him virtually "special" power to involve the U.S. against the will of the majority of the Americans, in the biggest of the wars ever waged by that country besides the two world conflicts.

Since then, the war of aggression has been "Americanized" at a reloaded rate, with a U.S. expeditionary corps swelling from 131,700 men at the end of Sept. 1965 to more than 535,000 at present, according to Western news agencies. The highest responsible officials in Washington and in satellite countries did not fail to show satisfaction with this decision "courageously" taken in spite of the generality it had caused, seeing in it the sheet-anchor for the fate of U.S. neo-colonialist policy. And now both the outgoing President of the U.S.A. and his successor are unanimous to find in "de-Americanization" the issue to be endlessly tumbled in which the Viet Nam adventure has got lost.

WASHINGTON'S DREAM

WHAT does this new orientation mean, what is its objective, what is behind it and what future await it?

The contemplated "de-Americanization" consists, according to an article in the *Evening Star* on March 26, 1968, in beeing up and reorganizing the puppet army and forces, in a match for the people's forces in South Viet Nam. It would thus, according to *UPI* (Apr. 24, 1968), allow the Americans to shift the war burden from the shoulders of the U.S. expeditionary corps on to those of the puppet army and forces, and at the same time, to scale down GI direct

A VICIOUS CIRCLE

"DE-AMERICANIZATION" OF THE U.S. ARMY OF AGGRESSION WILL FARE BETTER THAN "AMERICANIZATION"

participation in the war.

To this end, various means have been envisaged and used.

On the one hand, the puppet forces must be increased through intensive draft, re-equipped with more modern weapons hitherto issued only to the GIs and re-trained to be able to sustain the "fighting blues" dealt by the patriots in place of the expeditionary corps they are to replace gradually.

On the other hand, efforts must be made to revamp the puppet administration and tidy up the ranks of reactionary political functions so as to knock them together into a sound prop for the puppet regime in Saigon.

In case this plan comes off all right, the U.S. would find "honorable way out" in South Viet Nam, i.e., to phase out its expeditionary corps while maintaining a neo-colonialist regime there.

IN FULL TURMOIL

OBVIOUSLY, Washington is trying to close a vicious circle. As we have seen, after having "Americanized" the war to save the puppet regime and its armed forces from imminent collapse in 1965, the U.S. government has begun to reverse the process. It is because the situation of the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique has a bit improved and the prospect of the U.S. war of aggression is brighter than before?

Certainly not!

This new change of heart has come after the generalized offensives and puppet army and forces, in a match for the people's forces in South Viet Nam. It would thus, according to *UPI* (Apr. 24, 1968), allow the Americans to shift the war burden from the shoulders of the U.S. expeditionary corps on to those of the puppet army and forces, and at the same time, to scale down GI direct

1968, the special communiqué, No. 2 of the PLAF command gave 50,000 enemy casualties including 10,000 GIs and 40,000 South Vietnamese. Since then, the situation has been only worsening for the aggressors and their lackeys who have had to give ground in all theatres of operation. *Reuter* recognized on Sept. 20, 1968 that the PLAF was overwhelmingly superior to the Americans and their "allies". And the fact that a C-in-C was relieved of his office in the midst of the enemy offensive was an undeniable sign that the game had been irretrievably lost for his camp.

L.B. Johnson is not unaware, like his forebears, the pioneers of the Great West, what danger lies in the change of horses mid-stream. Yet, he has had to change not the man responsible for the conduct of the war, but also the orientation given to it. Why?

DOG-TIRED, OUT OF BREATH, BUT OBSTINATE

THE first reason which has led the White house to opt for "de-Americanization" of the war can be explained by the following fact. The U.S. has substantially committed its forces and its potential to Viet Nam without, however, being able to avert defeat. A simple and same logic would have led it to radically change its policy: renounce aggression, bring its "boys" home and leave the Vietnamese people to settle their own affairs. But can the U.S. government change its attitude towards the "local war", which it has brought to a high point in its aggression? Without such blind obedience, a palliative to realize all the same the neo-colonialist objectives it has set for itself.

At the start of their aggression, the U.S. imperialists opted for an "special war" conducted with

puppet troops officered and controlled by Yankee "instructors" and "advisers". This "limited" U.S. involvement in the war marked their neo-colonialist policy better.

However, the people of South Viet Nam refused to let be subjugated and it was the puppet troops that suffered the collapse and the defeat following their crushing reverses at Binh Gia and Da Gia.

After that, Washington threw off its mask and the myth of the massive U.S. build-up in South Viet Nam. The war became "local" and was fought by two strategic forces: the Yankee expeditionary corps serving as a shield and the puppet army which relied on it to gain a breathing hole.

Once again, the U.S. plan was upset. The giant Yankee warrior, lavishly and cumbrously armed, was turned ridiculous by its adversary who "possesses eyes at the back of his head" as vividly put it by the American press itself. As for the moribund puppet clique it found no better and saw its strategic role sink at its lowest ebb. With a logic which suits itself, Washington has no other choice than to raise the level of "Americanization" of the war. And it did it with all the means available. It has sustained heavy losses, but by no means an efficient remedy for the fatal crisis the U.S. war of aggression is experiencing. This is a bitter fact, not a hypothesis or theoretical speculation.

On the South Viet Nam battlefields, the U.S.-puppet forces are finding themselves in a critical situation. The U.S. strategic defense and have lost all hopes to regain the initiative from the hands of the patriots.

"From Cai Lay market."

I told my wife to return home and see me again early next month. She grew this visibly because of the misery of life and the hard times to feed the seven children. I appointed the time but still did not know where I could get the money to give my wife when she came back next month. Every month, the commanders cut the salaries of their men, covering spending on clothing, medical care, food and even funerals (the monthly cash salary was reduced from 50 to 10 piastres). At the end of the month, everybody found little money left to buy cigarettes and thus any idea of sending some to his family was quite out of the mark. I was sad at that.

Once, during a raid my company arrested a young man hidden at Trang Xe. He was harvesting rice and took refuge there upon learning of the raid. Some comrades, suspecting him of being a guerrilla, beat him brutally. The young man was wrapped in a plastic bag and carried away but he lost consciousness. The sight of this shocked me considerably. The next day, I told my wife to return home. "So long as the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys remain on our soil, our fellow-countrymen are still subjected to massed beatings, plunder and all kinds of atrocities."

My wife gave me a reassuring answer to my question about what had been my greatest worry. "How are the children?"

One day, in great dejection, I took a stroll on Route 28 along the Mekong river. Seeing fishing boats being pulled down by the rolling waves, I remembered my old days when I lived in freedom by my dear

Another reason which has motivated this "recurrent" orientation stems from the ever growing wave of protest against the U.S. aggression that this war "Americanized" to the highest degree is. In the U.S., the international situation exacerbated to the extreme threaten to tear to shreds the very political and moral fabric of U.S. society. In the world, the U.S. becoming, as its old friend, Lord Montgomery, has sharply remarked, the most hateful nation of the globe, is in utter isolation, political and moral, which is an absolutely unbearable isolation.

These are the real movers of the "de-Americanization". The myth of a "marked improvement" of the situation of the aggressors and their puppets cultivated by Washington thus appears as lame lie.

THE VICIOUS CIRCLE

WHERE will this "de-Americanization" lead to? In the first place, it constitutes on the part of responsible U.S. officials a public avowal of the mistake they have committed by dispatching an enormous expeditionary corps to our country and an overt admission of the failure they have sustained here. It would be by no means an efficient remedy for the fatal crisis the U.S. war of aggression is experiencing. This is a bitter fact, not a hypothesis or theoretical speculation.

On the South Viet Nam battlefields, the U.S.-puppet forces are finding themselves in a critical situation. The U.S. strategic defense and have lost all hopes to regain the initiative from the hands of the patriots.

Since Spring 1968, the U.S.-puppets have been behaving like a boxer who, driven against the ropes, seeks at the roll call in single day, on Nov. 8, at Nhonng Pass, in the coastal

front from all sides by an adversary in the finest form and who launches offensive blows only in an attempt to get out of real fix.

The plight of the puppet army and administration is at present desperate. Serving an anti-national cause, witnessing the serious defeats suffered by the U.S. troops and the crimes perpetrated against their own country and compatriots by the U.S. aggressors and die-hard troops, victims themselves in the flesh or in their families of atrocities and brutalities at the hand of these "conquerors" and, furthermore, awakened by the untiring agitation of the patriots, the army-men and personnel of the puppet apparatus are less and less the obedient servants trusted by the U.S. imperialists.

Cases of desertion by whole units (up to company-size), of collective disobedience (up to battalion and even regiment size) and of armed opposition to the U.S. and puppet authorities are new and alarming indications, inasmuch as they are getting more and more frequent every day.

On Dec. 7 last, *Washington Post* estimated that the number of desertions from the regular army in 1968 doubled compared with the previous years. *Giai Phong Press Agency* put at 10 the total (including a whole lot of rebellions in the puppet army in less than a year since Jan. 31, 1968: some tens of thousands of desertions have thus been rendered harmless and an important quantity of arms, ammunition and war material have been captured and seized by the insurgents.

Lets us mention some recent cases which illustrate this inexorable trend before the end of the year. At the beginning of Nov., in Cao Thang (Mekong Delta) 174 soldiers of puppet Regiment 33 failed to report at the roll call in single day, on Nov. 8, at Nhonng Pass, in the coastal

province of Binh Dinh, Central Trung Bo, a garrison of the "Army of the Republic of Viet Nam" mutinied, killing or wounding 60 GIs and a record number of GIs put out of action at one go during rebellions in Central Trung Bo. A month later, in Katum, in the Ninh province, puppet Ranger company 313 mutinied, killing the U.S. Major "adviser" and several cruel puppet officers. Two other companies, the 344th and 345th, ordered in to repress the 343rd, refused to comply and many of them threw down their weapons and took off their uniforms. Most recently, on Jan. 1, 1969, puppet Ranger company 381 freely transferred to Duc Hue, near the Cambodian border to the Northwest of Saigon, categorically refused to take part in an operation launched in cynical disregard of the New Year truce ordered by the PLAF. The Americans having decided to take disciplinary measures, all the officers and men of the said company abandoned their post and crossed over to the PLAF side along with all their armaments and kits.

So, the puppet army in the service of the Americans is, according to Don Tate, a Scripps Howard correspondent, reputed for his dashing appearance but incapable of fighting, its strategic role keeps dropping almost to insignificance, something which confirms the failure of the "de-Americanization" move.

As for the Saigon administration, nobody is unaware of the long-standing rivalries and quarrels, more or less open, between the Thieu and Ky regimes and among various reactionary cliques. Its influence with the people has been steadily declining since before and the town and country folks are abhorring more than ever before the aggressors and their valets. This was acknowledged by the Director of the Saigon Bureau of the *Ho Chi Minh Viet Nam People's Army* - See previous issue.

(i) General Vo Nguyen Giap - speech on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the founding of the *Ho Chi Minh Viet Nam People's Army* - See previous issue.

Next day, Thao and I carried three guns each. As for me, I shot and killed a second lieutenant and seized his pistol before joining the Liberation Army back to base safely. Next day, the Front Committee of My Tho city held a meeting to celebrate this victory with our participation. For the first time I appeared on the stage and felt very happy. Representatives of various public offices shook hands with me and congratulated me as if we were old acquaintances. Elderly people inquired about our families and our health. An old man, a trembling veteran said, "Had there been many patriots who act like you in the ranks of the Republican army, the Yankee lackeys would have been defeated long ago and Thieu Ky and their ilk would have no room to remain."

I was deeply moved and made up my mind to devote my life to the cause of the revolution. I was shown to be worthy of the affection shown me by the Front and my compatriots. As long as the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys remain on our soil, our compatriots still experience untold sufferings. We must fight until complete victory.

After an exchange of views, Thao and I called on the representatives of the Front Committee of My Tho city and asked to join the PLAF to continue fighting the U.S. aggressors and save the country.

It was filled with joy and could not be said that the Liberation fighters now pressed action on the camp of new recruits. I assisted them in demolishing the camp dump. They joined another column in destroying the fuel depot and capturing prisoners. The puppet soldiers surrendered before the Liberation fighters. The fighters urged the prisoners to give up their careers as criminals and set them free on scene. Outside, the certified cart on My Tho city was

was an escalation of the anti-American feeling among the section of the population with which he has had contact.

ORIGINAL BLEMISH

EVERYTHING shows that "de-Americanization" has already failed essentially before it was started. The war imposed by the U.S. on our people is irretrievably lost for those who unleashed it. In the end, it is neither this strategy nor that tactics, neither this party nor that person who is at the bottom of the U.S. defeat. The aggression was initiated under a Republican administration and has been pursued by the Democratic Party in power in Washington. Be it with Johnson or Nixon, Eisenhower or John Kennedy, the power of the trusts would not act otherwise in the Viet Nam problem and would absolutely be unable to find the key to victory. Because a truth has been established in Viet Nam: In our era, the people, even with a not very vast territory and not very large population, but courageously standing up in the struggle for their independence and freedom, armed with a correct line, fired by a great determination to fight and at the same time knowing well how to fight, will defeat any aggressor, be it US imperialism (i) or not.

The original blemish, the Achilles heel of the U.S. Viet Nam policy, lies in its neo-colonialist, reactionary and anti-popular character. So long as this policy is not brought to an end, no matter how the U.S. is ruled by the man in the White House, be he a Democrat or a Republican.

(i) General Vo Nguyen Giap - speech on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the founding of the *Ho Chi Minh Viet Nam People's Army* - See previous issue.

TURN ON THE GUN AND ACHIEVE MERITORIOUS SERVICE

(The story of a patriotic insurgent armyman told by himself)

I come from Long Trung village, Cai Lay district, My Tho province, with the Ba Dua city district tightly under U.S. puppet control. The villagers lived a wretched life.

My family was landless. We lived on fishing and could hardly make both ends meet. All day and night, I laboured at catching fish and crayfish in the river to earn some money to buy rice for a bare subsistence. Sometimes the catch was bought at cheap price or seized by puppet officials and soldiers.

At the end of 1963, the Liberation Army swung into action and the people rose up. Long Trung was liberated in a festive mood. The market place was clean and orderly. Best of all we were free from the brutality of the Republican soldiers. I was well contented that liberation meant freedom and happiness.

This did not last long. U.S. and puppet troops re-occupied my village. Bombs and shells were rained down into the hamlets. Mourning came to many families. Domestic animals were killed in large numbers and drifted down Tra Tan river. For three months running, there

had been only bombing, shelling, terror raids and massacre.

I had a wife and seven children to feed. I dared not move out for my routine occupation and so my family was driven into abject poverty. I had to send my wife and children to seek support from my so-called step mother. As for me, I decided to go on fishing, at the risk of my life to subsist. Soon after, I was arrested and taken to police station where I received a good beating. Then a police agent coerced me into serving as a civil guard. I declined. He resorted to both a smooth and a hard line. "You are allowed to visit the market," he said. "But you must be told me. Then come back here and get your military uniform!"

When I arrived at the market, people who knew me gathered around me and showed great kindness to me. This moved me to tears. I thought, "I am not afraid of miseries and beatings. There is nothing more painful than to be drafted into the puppet army and taken a back street and fled home."

Next day, I visited My Tho market to fetch a friend of mine when I was rounded up by police. I was sent to

the Quang Trung military training camp.

I underwent four months' hard training, deprived of everything. Army contractors and officers were all greedy. Without money and without relatives, I was overwhelmed with homesickness.

The term over, I was transferred to Battalion 3, Division 1, Regiment 7, which was stationed at Hung Vuong military centre in My Tho city. One month later, I was again sent to a military centre and saw me after 6 months' separation. Upon seeing me, my wife sobbed and could not hold back her tears.

I did not immediately answer my wife's question about what had been my greatest worry. "How are the children?"

My wife gave me a reassuring answer to my question about what had been my greatest worry. "How are the children?"

Behind me stood two army security agents when I did not know.

"Is it your wife?" they asked.

"Yes."

"Where does she come from?"

ones. That life was no more. It had been snatched away by the enemy. Now, I myself, serving as a puppet soldier within despicable bounds, sinful to my own compatriots. I gave a long sigh. Suddenly I noticed someone moving towards me. I recognised him as Thao, a mate in my company. He looked gentle and sad many times unbearably himself with me far into the night. His family also lived in poverty. He remained single. Since he was drafted into the army, his old mother has been left without proper care. Thao and I sat talking intimately until the river bank for quite a long while. In the cold mist, my heart warmed up and my eyes began to glow, and I felt an impulse to do something.

I tried to regain my bed. Thao came to see me, bringing along some medicine. His care helped me recoup my strength. Hated as I was by the high and the NFL call impelled me to act.

It was mid-June. One afternoon Thao took me out for a bath to map out the plan for the night. It was 8.10 p.m. and 5 minutes to H. hour. We moved in the direction of the CP of Battalion 2 and then he slipped out all the battalion commanders with several bursts of fire. The machinegunner—a burg-upon hearing the gunfire—was a dogging, gave my hair cropped and be locked into the stockade. Desertion might be a better course. I remembered what Thao told me the previous night and decided to remain. I should remain to settle accounts with the Yankees and the scoundrels.

I returned to the barracks and reported to the company commander. He showered abuse on me and struck me at the face and the abdomen. I succumbed. He pulled

me up by my hair and kicked at my face. I had several teeth broken and blood oozed out from my nose and my ears. I felt a shooting pain at my left side and got bruises on my head and my face. My head ached and I could hardly open my eyes. Nevertheless I did not groan and ask for mercy. The officer commander then ordered a soldier to crop my hair in a line that ran from my forehead to neck.

I tried to regain my bed. Thao came to see me, bringing along some medicine. His care helped me recoup my strength. Hated as I was by the high and the NFL call impelled me to act.

It was mid-June. One afternoon Thao took me out for a bath to map out the plan for the night. It was 8.10 p.m. and 5 minutes to H. hour. We moved in the direction of the CP of Battalion 2 and then he slipped out all the battalion commanders with several bursts of fire. The machinegunner—a burg-upon hearing the gunfire—was a dogging, gave my hair cropped and be locked into the stockade. Desertion might be a better course. I remembered what Thao told me the previous night and decided to remain. I should remain to settle accounts with the Yankees and the scoundrels.

I returned to the barracks and reported to the company commander. He showered abuse on me and struck me at the face and the abdomen. I succumbed. He pulled

VIET NAM AND THE WORLD

THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE FULLY SUPPORT THE POLITICAL PROGRAMME OF THE LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT (Neo Lao Haksat)

President HO CHI MINH'S
MESSAGE
to Prince SOUPHANOUVONG

To Prince Souphanouvong,
Chairman of the CC of the Neo Lao Haksat.

ON behalf of the Vietnamese people, I wish to extend to Your Highness, the Central Committee of the Neo Lao Haksat (Neo Lao Haksat) and the entire brotherly Lao people our warmest greetings on the occasion of the publication of the Front's Political Programme.

The Political Programme spells out the judicious line and the policy of broad unity of the Neo Lao Haksat as well as the iron-like determination of the Lao people to defeat the U.S. imperialists' intervention and aggression in Laos. It is certain that their struggle will enjoy profound sympathy and widespread support from the peace- and justice-loving people all over the world.

The Vietnamese people fully support the Political Programme of the Neo Lao Haksat and are convinced that under the clear-sighted leadership of the Neo Lao Haksat the brotherly Lao people will certainly record many still greater victories in their effort to build a peaceful, independent, democratic, unified and prosperous Laos.

May the militant solidarity between the peoples of our two countries consolidate and develop with every passing day!

I wish to convey Your Highness and the members of the Central Committee of the Neo Lao Haksat the assurances of my high consideration.

HO CHI MINH

A Programme Full of Resolve to Defeat the U.S. Aggressors in Laos

(Excerpts from the Jan. 3, 1969 statement of the CC of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front)

OVER the past 13 years, continuing and promoting the glorious traditions of the Neo Lao Haksat, the Lao Patriotic Front (Neo Lao Haksat) headed by Prince Souphanouvong has been leading the Lao people in a resolute and extremely valiant struggle against the U.S. imperialists and their valets, frustrating all their military and political schemes and winning great victories of important strategic significance in all fields. The liberated zone of Laos which covers two-thirds of the territory with half of the population has been ever more consolidated. The united front of the Lao people against the U.S. imperialists for national salvation with as its core the solid alliance between the Lao Patriotic Front and the Patriotic Neutral Forces has been further strengthened and broadened. The prestige of the Lao Patriotic Front keeps increasing and so does its influence, at home and abroad.

At present, to reverse the extremely critical situation in Viet Nam and to make good their increasingly heavy setbacks in Laos, the U.S. imperialists are stepping up their "special war" in Laos with intensified raids against the Lao liberated zone and persisting in their manoeuvre to prolong the war of aggression in Laos and maintain tension in Indochina and Southeast Asia.

In such a situation, on

the basis of the previous line of struggle for national salvation and national construction and in conformity with the present trend, the Political Programme of the Lao Patriotic Front has sent the light to supply guidance to the Lao people to develop their achievements so as to record still greater ones and march towards great victory.

The Political Programme of the Lao Patriotic Front has defined the sacred and most immediate task of the entire Lao people as follows: "To unite closely and step up the struggle to inflict failure on the neo-colonialist special war of the U.S. imperialists and overthrow the administration of their valets, traitors to the country, in order to build a peaceful, independent, neutral, democratic, unified and prosperous Laos and contribute to the defence of peace in Indochina and Southeast Asia."

It has laid down major policies in all fields for the attainment of the set political objective, and to meet the aspirations of various strata of the people and preserve their legitimate interests. It has clearly expounded the foreign policy of the Lao Patriotic Front which is to defend the sovereignty, independence, neutrality, unity and territorial integrity of Laos, respect and scrupulously implement the 1954 and 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos and strengthen solidarity with other Indo-

Chinese peoples and friendship and solidarity with the peace- and justice-loving people and governments all over the world.

It is clear that this Political Programme embodies the correct line of the Lao Patriotic Front. It is a programme of great national union and of determination to defeat U.S. imperialist intervention and aggression in Laos.

The Central Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front warmly acclaims and fully supports the Political Programme of the Lao Patriotic Front. It is firmly convinced that put into practice, this programme will instil considerable strength into the Lao people to win even greater victories in their just struggle for the building of a peaceful, independent, neutral, democratic, unified and prosperous Laos.

The Vietnamese and Lao people are close comrades-in-arms who share weal and woe. The valiant, persevering and victorious struggle of the Lao people against the U.S. imperialists, for national salvation, provides an extremely valuable support for the Vietnamese people. The Vietnamese people pledge themselves to stand shoulder to shoulder with the brotherly Lao and Cambodian peoples in the Indo-Chinese peoples' front and bring the struggle against the common enemy, the U.S. imperialist aggressor, to complete victory.

The Central Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front is strongly encouraging the Lao people to march forward and inflict complete defeat on the U.S. "special war". In Cambodia, the Khmer people have followed the provocative schemes and acts and threats by the U.S. and its lackeys to start a civil war. The Viet Nam and Thailand. For their part, the patriotic forces of Thailand have expanded their armed struggle to it among the 71 provinces. The insurgents in the Philippines, Malaysia and North Kalimantan continue fighting against the puppets to safeguard and develop the national independence. The Korean people keep up their struggle against the U.S. imperialists and the Pak Jung Hi puppet clique for the abolition of the "ROK-Japan Treaty" and the withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Korea and peaceful unification of the country. The Japanese people are engaged in vigorous actions against the U.S. imperialists and the reactionary Government for the abrogation of the "Japan-U.S. Security Treaty" and the "Japan-ROK Treaty", return of Okinawa, Japan, dismantling of the U.S. military base in Japan, peace and neutrality.

In the Middle East, the armed forces of Yemen and South Yemen, with the active co-operation of the people, have repulsed military attacks of the reactionary feudalists, benchmark of imperialism. The Arab peoples are pushing ahead their resistance against the

Week of International Solidarity with the Asian, African and Latin American People (Jan. 3-10)

REVOLUTIONARY STORM OVER THE THREE CONTINENTS

TON QUANG PHAT
Chairman of the Viet Nam Asian-African Solidarity Committee

Israeli aggressors assisted by the U.S. and British imperialists.

In Africa, three more countries—Mauritania, Mauritius and Equatorial Guinea, recovered last year their political independence. Thus 42 African countries have reconquered their nationhood to varying degrees. The other countries keep up their drives for national liberation: Angola, Mozambique, (Portuguese) Guinea and Cape Verde, etc., while in Zimbabwe, South Africa and Southwest Africa armed insurrections have been staged against racist rulers.

In Latin America, following the 1967 Conference for Latin American Peoples' Solidarity, the movement of national democratic revolution has made another stride forward. Besides armed struggle which is going on in Guatemala, Venezuela, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Peru and Bolivia, guerrilla activities have begun in Argentina, Puerto Rico and Brazil. The movement of workers, peasants, students, teachers and intellectuals has been heating up in various conditions, land and housing, and against reactionary education, is growing.

Clearly, the revolutionary storm in the three continents continued to attack the imperialists from all sides. The U.S.-head imperialism pursued its attempt to use "aid to free people" as a tool to march forward and inflict complete defeat on the U.S. "special war". In Cambodia, the Khmer people have followed the provocative schemes and acts and threats by the U.S. and its lackeys to start a civil war. The Viet Nam and Thailand. For their part, the patriotic forces of Thailand have expanded their armed struggle to it among the 71 provinces. The insurgents in the Philippines, Malaysia and North Kalimantan continue fighting against the puppets to safeguard and develop the national independence. The Korean people keep up their struggle against the U.S. imperialists and the Pak Jung Hi puppet clique for the abolition of the "ROK-Japan Treaty" and the withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Korea and peaceful unification of the country. The Japanese people are engaged in vigorous actions against the U.S. imperialists and the reactionary Government for the abrogation of the "Japan-U.S. Security Treaty" and the "Japan-ROK Treaty", return of Okinawa, Japan, dismantling of the U.S. military base in Japan, peace and neutrality.

In the Middle East, the armed forces of Yemen and South Yemen, with the active co-operation of the people, have repulsed military attacks of the reactionary feudalists, benchmark of imperialism. The Arab peoples are pushing ahead their resistance against the

to put into effect President Ho Chi Minh's appeal and are determined to step up their struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation till complete victory. They regard this as the most effective way to observe the International Week of Solidarity with the liberation struggle of the peoples of the world as a whole.

In Western Nam Bo, near Rach Gia (105 km West-Southwest of Saigon) close to the gulf of Thailand, 3 vessels transporting GIs and U.S. troops were sunk on Dec. 31 on a canal as they were taking part in a sweep in spite of the New Year truce decided by the NFL. In this province, 4 more vessels were wrecked between Dec. 21 and Dec. 25 while in the Ca Mau peninsula in the Southernmost part of the country 6 others were sent to the bottom and set afire

Division near Hon Quan, 95 km north of Saigon, and pounded 3 cargoes on the Long Tan shipping channel. On Jan. 4 they assaulted the enemy at Hon Quan, on Jan. 6 raided 2 U.S. positions near Xuan Loc, 62 km east-northeast of Saigon, and on Jan. 7 bombarded a U.S. artillery position, 60 km northeast of Saigon, and a subsector HQ at Tan Tra (11 km south-southwest of Saigon).

In Western Nam Bo, near Rach Gia (105 km West-Southwest of Saigon) close to the gulf of Thailand, 3 vessels transporting GIs and U.S. troops were sunk on Dec. 31 on a canal as they were taking part in a sweep in spite of the New Year truce decided by the NFL. In this province, 4 more vessels were wrecked between Dec. 21 and Dec. 25 while in the Ca Mau peninsula in the Southernmost part of the country 6 others were sent to the bottom and set afire

city northwest, 190 km south-southwest of Da Nang. On Dec. 31, punishing an enemy challenge to the New Year truce, the patriots killed 7 puppets and a U.S. "adviser" northwest of this city.

Western news agencies reported a heavy PLAF artillery attack on Saigon in the Mekong Delta. The same sources revealed, major battles took place on Jan. 6 when the PLAF assaulted a company of the U.S. 9th Infantry Division and U.S. engineers at other U.S. companies landed by helicopters to rescue the

forces of Da Nang city, very active, took, in the 11 days ending Dec. 31, a total of 112 adverse lives mostly police agents and the rest U.S. officers. In the same period, they also destroyed 3 military vehicles, 3 barracks-buildings and a puppet administrative office.

Near Da Nang, at the HQ of puppet Regiment 51, on Dec. 15 last, army men won over to the revolutionary cause blasted with plastics the room in which the officers of this unit were gathered with their U.S. "advisers". Nine traitors and aggressors were killed, among them a battalion commander, 4 "pacification" team leaders and a U.S. captain.

At 6 km further south, on Nov. 4, 1968, the provincial capital, throughout Dec. 27, the PLAF engaged in heavy fighting a puppet

company at Go Vang as well as, on 2 occasions, the reinforcements sent in by the enemy command, and destroyed one company and decimated 2 other companies of the puppet army.

Near Quang Ngai city (12 km southeast of Da Nang), on Dec. 23 they intercepted a puppet battalion supported by 16 armoured cars and killed or wounded 70 enemy troops, destroyed 3 armoured cars and brought down a helicopter gunship.

Lastly, also in Central Truong Bo, in Binh Dinh province bordering Quang Ngai, an "accelerated pacification" operation undertaken by South Korean mercenaries in the Phu My area (48 km north-northwest of Qui Nhon), the patriots put out of action 226 Pak Jung Hi troops in a fortnight.

In the West-rn Highlands, Giai Phong Press Agency listed 4 choppers, 4 barracks, 4 vehicles and 60 enemy casualties, during a shelling on Dec. 22 of the Kontum

city northwest, 190 km south-southwest of Da Nang. On Dec. 31, punishing an enemy challenge to the New Year truce, the patriots killed 7 puppets and a U.S. "adviser" northwest of this city.

Western news agencies reported a heavy PLAF artillery attack on Saigon in the Mekong Delta. The same sources revealed, major battles took place on Jan. 6 when the PLAF assaulted a company of the U.S. 9th Infantry Division and U.S. engineers at other U.S. companies landed by helicopters to rescue the

forces of Da Nang city, very active, took, in the 11 days ending Dec. 31, a total of 112 adverse lives mostly police agents and the rest U.S. officers. In the same period, they also destroyed 3 military vehicles, 3 barracks-buildings and a puppet administrative office.

Near Da Nang, at the HQ of puppet Regiment 51, on Dec. 15 last, army men won over to the revolutionary cause blasted with plastics the room in which the officers of this unit were gathered with their U.S. "advisers". Nine traitors and aggressors were killed, among them a battalion commander, 4 "pacification" team leaders and a U.S. captain.

At 6 km further south, on Nov. 4, 1968, the provincial capital, throughout Dec. 27, the PLAF engaged in heavy fighting a puppet

The squall that heralds a storm

(Continued from page 8)

people's solidarity and militant attitude. The demonstrators kept surging forward, shouting "Peace! Each tried to get to the forefront. It was an eloquent indictment of the American aggressors and their lack of humanity, and their cruel war of plunder.

Although interrupted by

brutal force, the demonstration staged by the Saigon students scored brilliant successes and had wide repercussions. Like a thunderbolt it hit hard at the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique's law 10-68 and paved the way for the Saigon people to storm ahead.

GRAND MEETING IN HANOI

A meeting was held in Hanoi under the joint auspices of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front and the Viet Nam Asian-African Solidarity Committee to welcome the new Political Programme of the Neo Lao Haksat (Neo Lao Haksat) and commemorate the 13th anniversary of the founding of the Neo Lao Haksat (Jan. 6, 1956).

After the opening speech delivered by Hoang Quoc Viet, member of the Viet Nam Workers' Party Central Committee, member of the Presidium of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front and the Viet Nam Asian-African Solidarity Committee, Ton Quang Phiet, Chairman of the Viet Nam Asian-African Solidarity Committee, addressed the rally.

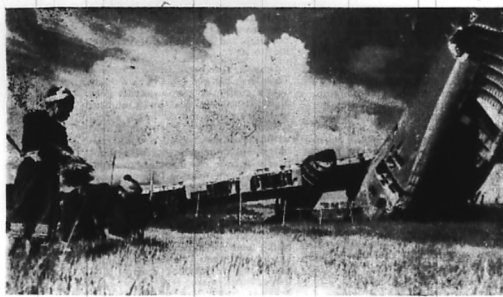
Speaking of the great successes scored by in all fields by the Lao people in their anti-U.S. aggression fight, under the leadership of the Neo Lao Haksat headed by Prince Souphanouvong, he said, "These are an important turning point in the patriotic resistance of the Lao people against U.S. aggression which has increasingly tipped the balance of forces in favour of the Lao patriotic forces, placing the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys in a position of confusion and further exposed their aggressive and traitorous nature."

Dealing with the momentous significance of the Political Programme, Ton Quang Phiet pointed out:

"The appearance of the Political Programme marks a new step in the development of the Lao revolution. It is the fruit of the protracted, hard and heroic struggle of the Lao people under the leadership of the Neo Lao Haksat (Front of Free Laos) in the past and the Neo Lao Haksat (Lao Patriotic Front) at present."

Ton Quang Phiet strongly condemned the U.S. imperialists' floating of the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos, their sabotage of the National Union Government which included representatives of the Lao Patriotic Front and the Lao neutralists, for their "special war" against Laos and their use of war planes including B-52s in the barbarous bombing of the liberated areas.

The audience unanimously passed a resolution warmly hailing and pledging full support for the Political Programme of the Neo Lao Haksat. It demanded the U.S. imperialists strictly respect the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos, and expressed sincere thanks to the Lao people for their great and valuable support to the national salvation struggle of the Vietnamese people.



A peasants' production team of Kham Khay village, Xiang Khauang province (Laos), growing rice on the side of a U.S. plane wreckage



Talks between the South Viet Nam NLF and the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces which resulted in the joint communiqué issued in early November 1965. Center: Lawyer Nguyen Huu Thiao and Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thiao.

ALLIANCE OF NATIONAL, DEMOCRATIC AND PEACE FORCES CALLS FOR THIEU-KY-HUONG CLIQUE'S OUSTER

The Lai Phong Press Agency has released an appeal by the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces to the South Viet Nam townsfolk. It assailed the failure of the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen and exposed their stiff-necked obduracy in continuing to intensify the aggressive war, in using fascist methods to crack down upon everyone who resists them and in plotting to torpedo the Paris conference.

The appeal said:

"The South Vietnamese people unequivocally affirm that so long as the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique remains in power there can be no sincere desire for peace but only sabotage of peace, no true independence but only slavery, and no welfare and happiness but only poverty and death.

"Therefore, the SVN city people, like their fellow-countrymen in the rest of South Viet Nam, who eagerly desire peace, independence, freedom and the right to live, decidedly cannot let

those bloodthirsty traitors continue to live on the sweat and blood of the people...

"The Thieu-Ky-Huong bellicose clique of traitors must be overthrown!"

"A government that really wants peace and sincere talks with the National Front for Liberation with a view to an early and sensible solution to the South Viet Nam issue must be set up.

"Compatriots in South Viet Nam cities! Close in your ranks and march forward fearlessly!"

THE SQUALL THAT HERALDS A STORM

(I report on the Christmas night, demonstration staged by Saigon students from the correspondents of *Go Noi Phong*, militant organ of the Saigon people)

ON Christmas night last, at about 8 p.m., thousands of student representatives gathered at a place on Hung Vuong street. With them were Catholic as well as Buddhist priests, justice-loving teachers, warm-hearted intellectuals, belonging to various callings and religions. They greeted Christmas with eager aspirations for peace, songs laden with grief, and angry denunciations of the cruel American war of aggression ravaging the country. The men who "brought to elephants to trample on their ancestors' tombs", they said, were none other than the mulish and bellicose Thieu-Ky-Huong clique, lackeys of the Americans.

Long pent up anger and hatred burst forth thunderlike. When the song "I Speak the Voice of Man" ended, a student addressed the crowd. "We want peace," he cried, "but to confine ourselves to lawsuits would be to adopt a negative attitude. Right now, we must light torches and

take to the streets!" The unanimous answer to his words was a thunderous, "To the streets!" Like a dam bursting.

Their cries resounded in the nine wards of the city, and rang in the frightened ears of the American aggressors and their lackeys, the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique.

In the front were placards reading:

"We oppose those who hatch the barbarous scheme of pursuing the war" (i.e. the stubborn and bellicose American aggressors and Thieu-Ky-Huong clique).

"Cut the price of rice! Better living conditions for laboring people, soldiers and civil servants!"

From Hung Vuong avenue, the demonstrators went to Yen Do then Ky Dong street, exhorting as they marched along on the people to rise up against the cruel American war of aggression, and to overthrow the wilful and warlike Thieu-Ky-Huong gang.

Many passers-by and people on their way to Christmas mass joined the demonstrators and chanted "Peace!". Police and troops watched with sympathetic eyes and showed support for the protesters. In their hearts of hearts, they opposed the odious Thieu-Ky-Huong clique. They were determined not to obey the orders of the aggressors and traitors and suppress a popular movement struggling for aspirations which were also theirs.

When the demonstrators reached Truong Mink Giang street, they were stopped by thugs of the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique. Guns crashed. But the paraders kept their cool, vigorously resisted the armed ruffians, wailed back arrested people, and went on with their protest. The blood-thirsty janissaries, who had been killing and maiming for many years on orders from the dollar, suddenly were struck with panic in face of the

(Continued on page 7)

19th NATIONAL STUDENT DAY (January 9, 1969)

"...Let all the youth and students of South Viet Nam dash forward courageously and, upholding their tradition of dauntless struggle, join our people in demanding withdrawal of the U.S., dismissal of the Thieu-Ky-Huong war cabinet, formation of a peace cabinet, negotiations with the Front to restore peace to the country."

(Appeal of the South Viet Nam Liberation Students' Union and the Liberation Pupils' Union on the occasion of the 19th National Student Day).

Students' Struggle in South Viet Nam Cities

IN SAIGON

The Lai Phong Press Agency reported that, on Dec. 28, 1968 representatives of students and the Saigon-Cholon-Gia Dinh Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces addressed an appeal to the youth, students and pupils, "to be alive to their responsibility before history which is to wage a relentless struggle for the abolition of fascist militarism and all forms of oppression by the U.S. imperialist aggressors and their lackeys."

The appeal said:

"Our fellow-countrymen everywhere are proudly turning their gaze on us, a heroic young generation.

"We swear that we will live up to this strong confidence and rise up resolutely and struggle for the fulfillment of the nation's imperative aspirations, namely, independence, democracy, peace, neutrality and ultimate peaceful reunification of the country."

The appeal was signed by:

Ho Huu Nhat, Secretary General of the Saigon-Cholon-Gia Dinh Committee of the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, ex-president of the General Association of Saigon Students, President of the Saigon Movement for University Autonomy;

Lo Quang Loc, member of the Saigon-Cholon-Gia Dinh Committee of the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces and President of the Executive of the Student Union of the Saigon Faculty of Letters; and

Tran Thien Tu, member of the Saigon-Cholon-Gia Dinh Committee of the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, ex-Secretary General of the Student Representation of the Phu Tho National Centre of Technology and ex-President of the Student Representation of the National School of Agricultural Engineers.

IN QUANG NAM

THE youth and pupils of Tam Ky city (Quang Nam) are stepping up their struggle against the "civil defence" organisation and the so-called "pupil battalion" of the U.S. and the puppet administration. Pupils of Cao Van School are unanimous in boycotting the Pupil Battalion. They have also protested against the puppet administration's forcing them to sign a petition for the National Day of the Nguyen Cao Ky delegation to the Paris conference. Pupils of Bo De School in the same city have walked out of classes run by some reactionary American teachers.

Provincial People's Revolutionary Committee Set Up in BINH DINH

AFTER revolutionary power had been established in the liberated villages and districts, Binh Dinh province recently held its Provincial Congress to choose its own ruling body.

The meeting elected a 9-man People's Revolutionary

Committee with Nguyen Truong Tin as its chairman and a woman and a representative of minority peoples among its members. The committee shortly afterward convened its first session, to review its overall situation of the province and work out a programme of action.